

February 15, 2023

Village Green of Bristol
23 Fair Street
Forestville, CT 06010

To Whom it May Concern,

I am testifying because I want the Human Services and Aging Committees to not pass SB989 and know that a new staffing mandate won't help and will really make matters worse in our facility.

I am the Administrator of Village Green of Bristol allocated in Forestville, Connecticut in the center of the state. Village Green of Bristol is a 95 bed skilled nursing facility with the main health care service offerings of Short Term subacute care, Long Term care and a Respiratory ventilator unit. Our specialty is a 30 bed ventilator unit designed for patients that are short term or long term placement. We also are a Bronze Award recipient from AHCA. I am writing this letter to express my concern with a new unfunded Connecticut 4.1 per day direct care minimum staffing legislative proposal which is a threat to all Connecticut Nursing Homes, our staff and our residents. Since 2020 and the COVID-19 pandemic staffing shortages have continued due to the burnout of the workforce during a stressful few years. Registered Nurses are in short supply in the state and many new graduates prefer the hospital setting versus a skilled nursing setting. Certified nursing assistants are in short supply as well due to the competitive job availability. We presently have six (6) nurse positions and nine (9) certified nursing assistant positions open. Today we continue to make little progress to hire more staff. They simply are not in the workforce! If this mandate results in fines for not meeting the staffing mandate, facilities will close and residents and patients will suffer. The other reason the mandate will not work is the failure to have adequate funding from the State of Connecticut. CMS nor the federal government will fund these positions that the staffing mandate will require. Staffing mandates do not consider the acuity of the residents and patients that our facility is caring for in order to provide quality of care and services. It is impossible to consider a staffing mandate unless there is a major influx of workers and funding provided.


Village Green of Bristol does not have the resources to fund the staffing mandate even if there were staff available to fill the positions. I agree that investing in the Long Term

Care industry and workforce is the highest priority, but an unfunded staffing mandate is not the investment that is needed.

A staffing mandate will not work for our facility and for all the facilities in the State of Connecticut.

DO NOT PASS THIS PROPOSAL!!!!

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Janet Shahan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Janet Shahan RN, MBA, NHA
Administrator